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portion of audio signals supplied is recorded. The first and second portions of the audio signals recorded in the first and second recording regions are synthesized and reproduced or selected and reproduced to realize variegated audio reproduction.--

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IN THE CLAIMS

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Please amend claims 1-36 by rewriting same to read as follows:

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--1. (Amended) A recording medium having a plurality of recording regions for recording a plurality of partial portions of sampled data generated by sampling audio signals from a sound source at a predefined sampling frequency, wherein said plurality of partial portions includes said audio signals in their entirety and said recoding is performed from one said partial portion to an other said partial portion.

--2. (Amended) The recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said predefined sampling frequency is 44.1 kHz.

--3. (Amended) The recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said recording medium is reproducible by a disc reproducing apparatus employing a light beam having a wavelength of approximately 780 nm.

--4. (Amended) The recording medium according to claim

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*Continue* 1, further comprising first and second recording layers within which said data is separated into two said partial portions for recording.

--5. (Amended) The recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of partial portions are independent partial portions.

--6. (Amended) The recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of partial portions represent accompaniment music of a lyric.

--7. (Amended) The recording medium according to claim 1, wherein discrimination data for discriminating a combination of said plurality of partial portions is recorded.

--8. (Amended) A recording apparatus for recording audio signals on a recording medium, said recording medium having a plurality of recording regions, comprising:

sampling means for sampling signals separated into a plurality of partial portions from audio signals from a sound source at a predefined sampling frequency, said plurality of partial portions including said audio signals in their entirety; and

recording means for recording digital data obtained from said sampling means in said plurality of recording regions of said recording medium.

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--9. (Amended) The recording apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said predefined sampling frequency is 44.1 kHz.

--10. (Amended) The recording apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said audio signals are reproducible by a disc reproducing apparatus employing a light beam having a wavelength of approximately 780 nm.

--11. (Amended) The recording apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said recording medium is a disc-shaped recording medium having first and second recording layers within which said sampling data is separated into two said partial portions that are recorded.

--12. (Amended) The recording apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said plurality of partial portions are independent partial portions.

--13. (Amended) The recording apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said plurality of partial portions represent accompaniment music of a lyric.

--14. (Amended) A recording method for recording audio signals on a recording medium, said recording medium having a plurality of recording regions, said method comprising the steps of:

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sampling signals separated into a plurality of partial portions from audio signals from a sound source at a predefined sampling frequency, said plurality of partial portions including said audio signals in their entirety; and recording digital data obtained from said sampling means in said plurality of recording regions of said recording medium.

--15. (Amended) A reproducing apparatus for reproducing audio signals from a recording medium on which sampled data generated by sampling audio signals from a sound source at a predetermined sampling frequency are recorded in a plurality of recording regions as said sampled data are separated into a plurality of partial portions including said audio signals in their entirety, said reproducing apparatus comprising:

readout means for reading signals from said plurality of recording regions of said recording medium; and

control means for controlling whether signals on each of said plurality of recording regions read by said readout means are to be reproduced individually or signals of a plurality of said regions are to be synthesized and reproduced.

--16. (Amended) The reproducing apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said readout means reads said signals from each of said plurality of recording regions and said control means synthesizes data obtained from each of said plurality of recording regions to reproduce said synthesized data.

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Antnes* --17. (Amended) The reproducing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said readout means includes a plurality of readout mechanisms.

--18. (Amended) The reproducing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein n represents a number of said recording regions, said readout means uses a single readout mechanism for reading said plurality of recording regions, and said control means causes said readout means to read said plurality of recording regions at a rate not less than n times a rate required by audio signals recorded in said respective regions to buffer said read audio signals to output said buffered signals when a volume of said buffered signals reaches a predetermined volume.

--19. (Amended) The reproducing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein when said recording medium is a disc-shaped recording medium having two recording layers, said control means uses said readout means to reproduce a first layer, said control means in reproducing an other layer shifts to a point temporally previous to a replay end time point of said first layer to initiate reproduction, and said control means shifts after reproduction of said other layer to a point temporally posterior to said replay end time point to shift reproduction to said first layer.

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--20. (Amended) A reproducing method for reproducing audio signals from a recording medium on which sampled data generated by sampling audio signals from a sound source at a predetermined sampling frequency are recorded in a plurality of recording regions as said sampled data are separated into a plurality of partial portions including said audio signals in their entirety, said reproducing method comprising the steps of:

reading signals from said plurality of recording regions of said recording medium; and

controlling whether signals of each of said plurality of recording regions of said recording medium read are to be reproduced individually or signals recorded in at least two of said plurality of regions are to be synthesized and reproduced.

--21. (Amended) A recording medium comprising:

a first recording region in which a first portion of audio signals is recorded; and

a second recording region in which a second portion of audio signals is recorded.

--22. (Amended) The recording medium according to claim 21, wherein said recording medium includes a first recording layer in which said first recording region is provided and a second recording layer arranged in superposition on said first recording layer, said second recording region being provided

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in said second recording layer.

--23. (Amended) The recording medium according to claim 21, wherein said first recording region and said second recording region are arranged so that one of either said first and said second recording regions is on an inner peripheral side of an other of said first and said second recording regions.

--24. (Amended) The recording medium according to claim 21, wherein one of said first and said second portions of said audio signals includes a lyric, and an other portion includes accompaniment music.

--25. (Amended) The recording medium according to claim 21, wherein a discrimination signal indicating whether said first and said second portions recorded in said first recording region and in said second recording region are to be summed or subtracted is recorded.

--26. (Amended) A method for reproducing a recording medium having a first recording region in which a first portion of audio signals is recorded and a second recording region in which a second portion of said audio signals is recorded, said recording medium having a discrimination signal indicating whether said first and second portions at least are to be summed or subtracted recorded on said recording medium,

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said method comprising the steps of:

reading said first portion from said first recording region and reading said second portion from said second recording region;

reproducing said first and said second portions read; and  
outputting said first portion reproduced and second portion reproduced based on said discrimination signal read from said recording medium.

--27. (Amended) The reproducing method according to claim 26, wherein when said discrimination signal read from said recording medium indicates summing said first and said second signals and reproducing a resulting summed signal, said first portion read from said first recording region and said second portion read from said second region are summed and said resulting signal is reproduced.

--28. (Amended) The reproducing method according to claim 26, wherein when said discrimination signal read from said recording medium indicates subtracting said first and said second signals and reproducing a resulting subtraction signal, said first portion read from said first recording region and said second portion read from said second region are processed with subtraction and said resulting signal is reproduced.

--29. (Amended) The reproducing method according to



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claim 26, wherein said first portion is read by a single readout means from said first recording region of said recording medium, processed for replay, and buffered; and said second portion is read from said second recording region, processed for replay, and buffered.

--30. (Amended) The reproducing method according to claim 29, wherein signals obtained by reproducing said buffered first portion and signals obtained by reproducing said buffered second portion are processed and reproduced based on a discrimination signal read from said recording medium.

--31. (Amended) The reproducing method according to claim 26, wherein one of said first portion of audio signals recorded in said first recording region and said second portion of audio signals recorded in said second recording region contains a signal including a lyric, and an other portion contains a signal including accompaniment music.

--32. (Amended) An apparatus for reproducing a recording medium having a first recording region in which a first portion of audio signals supplied is recorded and a second recording region in which a second portion of said audio signals supplied is recorded, wherein a discrimination signal indicating whether said first and said second portions are to be output either of on summation and on subtraction is recorded on said recording medium, said apparatus comprising:

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readout means for reading said first portion from said first recording region and for reading said second portion from said second recording region;

first reproducing means for reproducing said first portion read;

second reproducing means for reproducing said second portion read; and

processing means for processing said first portion reproduced and said second portion reproduced based on said discrimination signal read from said recording medium as an output signal from said first reproducing means and an output signal from said second reproducing means.

--33. (Amended) The reproducing apparatus according to claim 32, wherein if said discrimination signal read from said recording medium indicates summing said first and said second signals and reproducing a resulting summed signal, said first portion read from said first recording region and said second portion read from said second region are summed and said resulting signal is reproduced.

--34. (Amended) The reproducing apparatus according to claim 32, wherein if said discrimination signal read from said recording medium indicates processing said first and said second signals with subtraction and reproducing a resulting subtraction signal, said first portion read from said first recording region and said second portion read from said second

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region are processed with subtraction and said resulting signal is reproduced.

--35. (Amended) The reproducing apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said first reproducing means includes a first reproducing processing unit for reproducing said first portion read by said readout means from said first recording region and a first buffer memory for buffering output data from said first reproducing processing unit; and said second reproducing means includes a second reproducing processing unit for reproducing said second portion read by said readout means from said second recording region and a second buffer memory for buffering output data from said second reproducing processing unit.

--36. (Amended) The reproducing apparatus according to claim 32, wherein a discrimination signal is recorded on said recording medium, said signal indicating whether said first and said second portions recorded in said first and said second recording regions are to be either of summed and subtracted for outputting.--

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REMARKS

Claims 1-36 remain in the application and have been amended hereby.

As will be noted from the Declaration, Applicant is a citizen and resident of Japan and this application originated